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STATINTL

## Death of Follis Ruled Accident

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AMSTERDAM—The Netherlands—Accidental drowning was ruled today the cause of the death of Dr. Richard H. Follis Jr. of Washington, D.C., an internationally known expert in nutrition whose body was discovered in a murky canal a month after he disappeared.

The ruling was given by Police Commissioner Piet Landman, who said it was just as he suspected all along.

Landman said there were slight bruises on Follis' legs just above the ankles, apparently caused by tripping on a low metal guard rail that runs beside the canal. The rail is designed to prevent parked cars from rolling into the water.

The body of Follis, 56, was discovered at 10:15 a.m. (EST) yesterday floating face down in a canal about 25 feet from the spot where he was seen last.

The canal is only a few hundred yards from the hotel where he had been staying before he disappeared in the early morning hours of Dec. 5.

The area is the lively night-

club section of the city, with many excellent restaurants and frequented by crowds of tourists.

Follis was seen there at 3:15 a.m. Dec. 5 by several witnesses, according to police officials.

When his body was pulled from the water, Follis' watch, still on his wrist, was found to have stopped at 3:50. His passport, hotel key and wallet containing his money were in his pockets.

### Only Glasses Missing

The body was fully clad in a suit and raincoat. The only thing authorities reported missing was Follis' eyeglasses.

The physician who performed the autopsy today said the body had been preserved by the cold water, which apparently had kept it from rising to the surface.

Dredges had dragged the area twice for the body but the operation was ineffective because the bottom of the canal—6½ feet deep at that point—was littered with old bicycles and other junk.

Landman said such drownings were not unusual, that there is at least one a week.

Amsterdam authorities said the body would be turned over to U.S. officials tomorrow.

### Left D.C. on Dec. 2

Follis had left Washington, Dec. 2 and stopped in Amsterdam—on his way to a health conference in Tehran, Iran—to confer with a professor at Leiden University.

The professor, Dr. Andreas Querida, an endocrinologist, had met Follis three years ago in Hawaii. When Follis did not arrive for his December appointment, Querida called the American Embassy in the Hague because he was to take Follis to the airport the next day to catch a plane to the Middle East.

At the time, Querida said that he thought Follis might be working for the Central Intelligence Agency.

European newspapers played up this angle of the case but apparently it was without foundation.

No confirmation of a connection with the CIA could be obtained from any source, including persons who knew Follis well.

In recent years Follis had traveled widely in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere. He was to have started a project in Ecuador in February.

Follis was classified by the VA as a senior physician, as high a rank as can be attained in the research field there.

He was the author of more than 150 scientific papers, the recipient of many awards in his field and a member of many scientific organizations.

He was a 1932 graduate of Yale University and Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1936. He joined the VA in 1955 and was detached to work in the laboratories of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He also worked for the National Institutes of Health.

Follis, whose home was at 4915 Albemarle St. NW, leaves his wife, Edith, and two daughters, Angela, 23, and Louise, 21.